

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Cont. Appln. No. 3 of 09/969,114,
filed October 1, 2001

Group No.: Not yet assigned

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Applicant: Clive Hohberger et al.

Attorney
Docket No.: 7887/83891

Serial No.: Not yet assigned

Filed: Herewith

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
ASSOCIATING ON DEMAND
CERTAIN SELECTED MEDIA AND
VALUE-ADDING ELEMENTS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-captioned application, please enter this
amendment.

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-20, 35-152, and 164-172 without prejudice. Exhibit A that is
attached hereto is entitled "Clean Set Of Pending Claims Following Entry Of This Amendment."

REMARKS

Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a teleconference would expedite that prosecution of this application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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EXHIBIT A

CLEAN SET OF PENDING CLAIMS FOLLOWING ENTRY OF THIS AMENDMENT

21. A device for use in connection with a thermal transfer printer that includes first web means for moving a plurality of media samples from a supply of media samples as well as a printhead that prints information on a first surface of said plurality of media samples, said device comprising:

a second web means for temporarily removing the plurality of media samples from said first web means; and

means for attaching a value-adding device to a second surface of selected ones of said media samples after information has been printed on the first surface of said selected ones of said media samples.

22. The device of claim 21 wherein said value-adding devices comprise radio frequency identification integrated circuits adopted to make contact with an antenna structure on said media samples to form radio frequency identification transponders.

23. The device of claim 21 wherein said value-adding devices comprise radio frequency identification transponders.

24. The device of claim 23 further comprising means for verifying that at least some of said radio frequency identification transponders are operable.

25. The device of claim 24 further comprising means for causing a failure indicia to be printed on the first surface of each one of said media samples to which an inoperable radio frequency identification transponder is attached.

26. The device of claim 21 wherein a value-adding device is attached to less than all of said plurality of media samples.

27. The device of claim 21 wherein said media samples are selected from a group consisting of labels, tickets, tags, and cards.

28. A device for use in connection with a thermal transfer printer that includes a first web that allows a plurality of media samples to be moved from a supply of media samples as well as a printhead that prints information on a first surface of said plurality of media samples, said device comprising:

a second web that temporarily removes the plurality of media samples from said first web; and

an attachment mechanism that attaches a value-adding device to a second surface of selected ones of said media samples after information has been printed on the first surface of said selected ones of said media samples.

29. The device of claim 28 wherein said value-adding devices comprise radio frequency identification integrated circuits adopted to make contact with an antenna structure on said media samples to form radio frequency identification transponders.

30. The device of claim 28 wherein said value-adding devices comprise radio frequency identification transponders.

31. The device of claim 30 further comprising means for verifying that at least some of said radio frequency identification transponders are operable.

32. The device of claim 31 further comprising means for causing a failure indicia to be printed on the first surface of each one of said media samples to which an inoperable radio frequency identification transponder is attached.

33. The device of claim 28 wherein a value-adding device is attached to less than all of said plurality of media samples.

34. The device of claim 28 wherein said media samples are selected from a group consisting of labels, tickets, tags, and cards.

153. Apparatus for associating a selected element with a selected label, ticket, tag, card or other media, at least one of which element and media is adhesive-backed and carried on a carrier, comprising:

means for delaminating said one element or media from its carrier;

means for supporting said delaminated element or media;

means for bringing said supported element or media into a position contiguous with the other of said element or media; and

means for pressing said element and media together to cause adherence.

154. The apparatus of 153 wherein said means for pressing comprises a tamper.

155. The apparatus of claim 154 wherein said tamper comprises:

a fast-acting solenoid;

a gas spring that is driven by said solenoid; and

a pressure-applying mechanism that is coupled to said gas spring and that defines a surface to press together said media and said element, said gas spring damping the fast action of said solenoid.

156. The apparatus of 136 wherein said means for supporting utilizes a vacuum, wherein said tamper is reciprocable, and wherein said tamper includes a bellows through which the vacuum is delivered to said supported element or media.

157. The apparatus of 136 wherein said supported media is adhesive backed, and wherein said apparatus includes means for relaminating said supported media.

158. The apparatus of 153 wherein said value-adding element is an RFID transponder, and wherein said apparatus includes means for programming or reprogramming the transponder.

159. The apparatus of 153 wherein said means for bringing includes means for reciprocating said selected element into said contiguity and then withdrawing to leave the element.

160. For use in adhering a label, ticket, tag, card or other media to a value-adding element, one of which media and element have an exposed adhesive surface, a reciprocable tamping applicator mechanism comprising:

a fast-acting solenoid;

a gas spring that is driven by said solenoid; and

a pressure-applying mechanism that is coupled to said gas spring and that defines a surface that presses together the media and the element, said gas spring damping the fast action of said solenoid.

161. The mechanism of claim 160 including a return spring that returns said pressure-applying mechanism after a stroke by said solenoid.

162. The mechanism of claim 161 further comprising a plenum containing said solenoid and said gas spring, as well as a bellows that is disposed between said plenum and said pressure-applying mechanism.

163. The mechanism of claim 162 wherein said surface is perforated, and wherein said mechanism includes means coupled to said plenum for developing a vacuum in said plenum.